

S M -125A
Blair's Purchase Log House
Bushwood
Private

early 19th century

Located a short distance from the main house, this one-story log house originally consisted of two units on either side of the central chimney. It was presumably built as a two-family dwelling for slaves. Ladders ascended from each first floor room to the chambers above. Upright posts were pegged into the logs in the corners to brace the walls. In recent years the log walls were sheathed with vertical planks and a standing seam tin roof was added over the original wooden shingles.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

S' M -125A
MAGI # 19125A5405

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC BLAIR'S PURCHASE SLAVE CABIN (SM - 125)

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Intersection of State Road 238 and Bushwood, 12 miles northwest of Leonardtown

CITY, TOWN _____ CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT _____

Bushwood _____ VICINITY OF _____

STATE _____ COUNTY _____

Maryland St. Mary's

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Joseph Julius Johnson

Telephone #: _____

STREET & NUMBER Bushwood Rd.

CITY, TOWN Bushwood _____ VICINITY OF _____ STATE, zip code Md. 20618

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. St. Mary's County Courthouse

Liber #: J.H. No.9
Folio #: 138

STREET & NUMBER _____

CITY, TOWN Leonardtown _____ STATE Md.

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Maryland Historic Sites Survey (SM-#125)

DATE _____ ☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Maryland Historical Trust

CITY, TOWN Annapolis _____ STATE Md.

7 DESCRIPTION**CONDITION**

☒ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Though somewhat altered in the twentieth century, this structure retains many of its original features and therefore is a rare example of the quarters that many slaves had. It was built for and inhabited by house servants, but its log construction is considerably cruder than the framed houses inhabited by house servants at Grasslands and Bunker Hill in Anne Arundel County and at East St. Mary's Manor in St. Mary's County. It is more similar to the "field hands' quarters" at Sotterley and elsewhere, though it is by no means unusual to find log cabins built for house servants almost adjacent to the main house, the Collison farm in Anne Arundel County and Riverview in St. Mary's County being cases in point.

The structure itself is a one bay log house with one story capped by a roof. It measures 17'5" x 15'5" and is c. 16' tall. Its sills rest directly on the ground and, strangely enough, have not rotted as extensively as one would think after so many years. The log walls are joined at the corners by half dove-tailed notching. Inside each corner stands a debarked log post pegged into the logs apparently to brace the joint. The structure was not sheathed originally according to the owner.

This structure lacked even the simple amenities found in other slave cabins. For example, there were no windows originally, according to the owner, and the floor was earthen. There was no stairway to the upstairs, only a ladder which one ascended through a small opening between the joists to enter the loft.

Downstairs the brick fireplace appeared to be original. In the southwest corner of the room a board and batten chamber was built. According to the owner, it was present in the early 20th century. It may have been built for storage after the ex-slaves moved out; or, it may have been a room partitioned off by the slaves in the mid 19th century to create more privacy, a bedroom perhaps.

As at Riverview in St. Mary's County, the upstairs is framed with studs and sheathed with clapboards (underneath the new siding). The rafters are half-lapped at the peak and reinforced by 2" collars.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES	BUILDER/ARCHITECT
<u>early 19th century</u>	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

It could not be seen how the rafters were attached to the flat false plate. There was no window in the loft. The roof was originally covered with wood shingles.

This house is a representative example of the kinds of houses inhabited by many, if not most, slaves in the latter part of the 18th century and into the 19th century.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

George W. McDaniel

2/76

ORGANIZATION

Md. Commission on Afro-American and Indian History and Culture

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

12 West Madison Street

TELEPHONE

301-383-3648

CITY OR TOWN

Baltimore

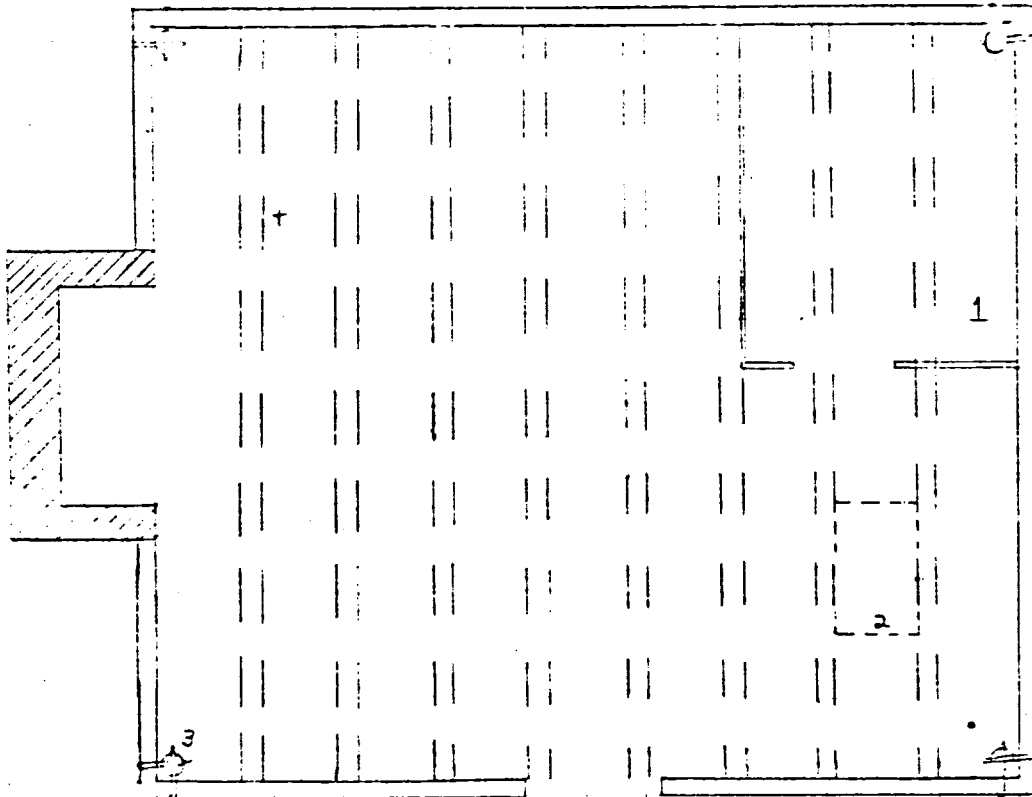
STATE

Md.

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438



NOTES:
 1: PARTITIONED SPACE
 2: OPENING INTO LOFT
 3: PEGGED CORNER POSTS
 4: OVERHEAD JOISTS

QUARTERS BY BLANK, PA
 ST. MARYS COUNTY, MD
 2-1-1915

Surveyed by [illegible]
[illegible]

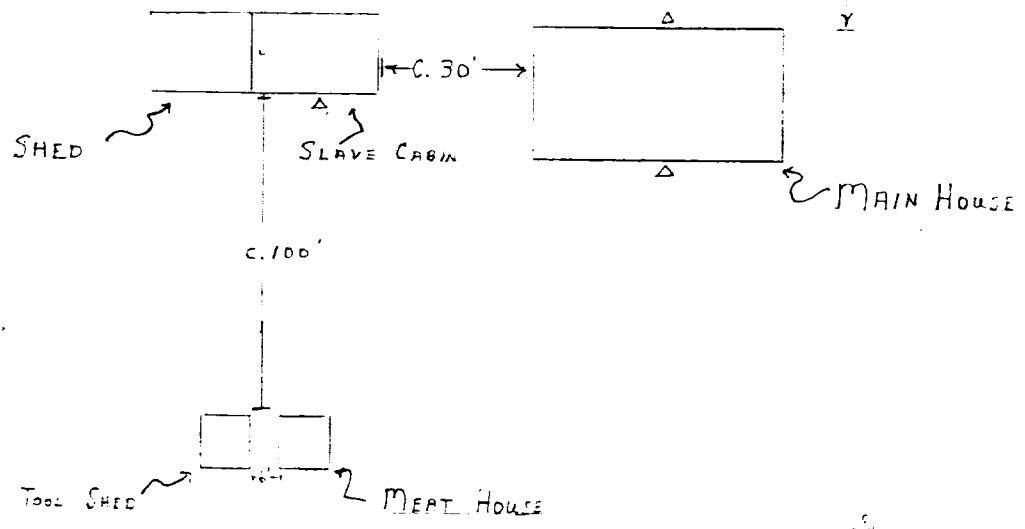
LOCATION OF THE SLAVE CHAIN ON THE [illegible]

POTOMAC RIVER

WICOMICO RIVER

Rolling Fields

C. 1 MILE



Fields

